

The Honorable Barack Obama

5 July 2009

President of the United States

1600 Pennsylvania NW

Washington D.C. 20500

Social Security Fairness Act (HR 235 and S 484) Position: Please HELP Support

Dear President Obama:

You probably know that every teacher and school administrator in at least fourteen States, including California, who has earned Social Security or is the surviving spouse of a deceased Social Security earner, is being denied most of his or her earned Social Security retirement benefits! California has almost one million employees who qualify for Social Security benefits or are married to a Social Security earner and are denied their earned retirement benefits. The law also affects firemen, police and some city and county employees. But, the most horrific impact may be the disincentive to encourage good people to leave the private sector and become teachers?

Briefly, here is how the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO) impact the two of us. Steve has 27 years in Social Security employment, and 5 in the CA State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS). I retired this year because I start experiencing an offset if I continue to earn more "retirement credit." Why would I volunteer to have my meager teacher's salary (approx. \$ 60,000) offset? My spouse gets ZERO spousal benefit from my Social Security, since she has a 50% CA STRS pension, so she experiences an offset. Furthermore, if I predecease my spouse, she will get only a \$250 "burial fee." She will NOT get any of my Social Security survivor's benefit. My mother-in-law NEVER worked, let alone helped little children learn to read, and she gets \$ 800 / month now from Social Security, and will get FULL benefits if my father-in-law predeceases her. What sense does this make?

These laws very unfairly affect the financial security of employees in public service. Furthermore, these provisions negatively affect our nation's ability to encourage top candidates to enter the teaching profession, to recruit second-career professionals into the field, and to ensure every child is taught by the highest quality educators.

Please use the power of your office in setting the Social Security reform agenda to include the repeal of the WEP and GPO!

Sincerely,

Steve and Louise Olsen
Concord, CA

The Honorable Harry Reid

Senate Majority Leader United States Senate

528 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Social Security Fairness Act (HR 235 and S 484)

Position: Support

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

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Please repeal the WEP and GPO!

Sincerely,

Steve and Louise Olsen

Concord, CA

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

June 15, 2010

Speaker of the House

235 Cannon Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Social Security Fairness Act (HR 235 and S 484) Position: Support

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

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Please repeal the WEP and GPO!

Sincerely,

Steve and Louise Olsen

CA

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
United States House of Representatives
1119 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

June 15, 2010

Advocate to eliminate the WEP and GPO

Dear Mr. Becerra:

You probably know that every teacher and school administrator in at least fourteen States, including California, who has earned Social Security or is the surviving spouse of a deceased Social Security earner, is being denied most of his or her earned Social Security retirement benefits! California has almost one million employees who qualify for Social Security benefits or are married to a Social Security earner and are denied their earned retirement benefits. The law also affects firemen, police and some city and county employees. But, the most horrific impact may be the disincentive to encourage good people to leave the private sector and become teachers?

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Please repeal the WEP and GPO!

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Steve and Louise Olsen
CA